

What is claimed is:

1. An interactive information distribution system, comprising:

at least one programming source for storing at least one partially encrypted video program;

a distribution center comprising a remote server, said remote server storing said at least one partially encrypted video program received from said at least one programming source, and said remote server processing said partially encrypted video program corresponding to a subscriber requested video program to produce a fully encrypted video program; and

a subscriber-side distribution network coupled to the distribution center, for causing transmission of the fully encrypted video program to the requesting subscriber.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said remote server causes transmission of a decryption key to said requesting subscriber via said subscriber-side distribution network, said decryption key being necessary to decrypt said fully encrypted video program.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fully encrypted video program is encrypted according to a public key associated with said requesting subscriber, said public key having associated with it a private key necessary to decrypt said fully encrypted video program.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fully encrypted video program is encrypted according to a private key associated with said requesting subscriber, said private key having associated with it a public key necessary to decrypt said fully encrypted video program.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fully encrypted video program is encrypted according to a public key, said public key having associated with it a private key necessary to decrypt said fully encrypted video program, said apparatus further comprising:

said remote server transmitting said private key to said requesting subscriber.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said public key is encrypted prior to transmission to said requesting subscriber.

7. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said fully encrypted video program is transmitted to said requesting subscriber via a first communications channel and said decryption key is transmitted to said requesting subscriber via a second communications channel.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fully encrypted video program is encrypted according to a Data Encryption Standard (DES).

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said remote server multiplexes said fully encrypted video program and other signals to create a multiplexed signal for transmission to said requesting subscriber.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one programming source comprises at least one of a television broadcasting source, a premium broadcast source, and a video-on-demand source.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said distribution center is coupled to said at least one programming source via a provider side distribution network.